

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

C¹
Claim 1. (Twice Amended) An earplug comprising:

a foam body free of detectable material; and

a detectable insert encapsulated within said foam body, said foam body

completely surrounding said detectable insert.

Claim 7. (Twice Amended) A method of manufacturing an earplug
comprising:

C²
providing an earplug having a foam body free of detectable material;

forming a channel in said foam body;

placing a detectable insert in said channel; and

allowing said foam body to encapsulate said detectable insert so that said foam

body completely surrounds said detectable insert.

C³
Claim 16, line 5, after "insert", please insert so that said foam body completely
surrounds said insert.

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action of January 3, 2000,
wherein the Examiner has rejected claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable